

LENIN'S LIFE AND WORK.

(Continued from page one)

At the time of the imperialist war, when the labor movement all over the world was being crushed not only by the military apparatus, but by the treachery of Social Democracy, Lenin was working—although at the same time he was supporting every practical step taken by those whose ideals he shared, and devoting much concrete activity to the creation of an illegal organization and to the utilization of legal possibilities—in his Swiss loneliness, on the Marxian tenets with regard to the State, to the dictatorship of the proletariat, and thus paved the way for the insurrection of October, 1917. Even such fighters as Rosa Luxemburg and Mehring, who never lowered their weapons for a moment before triumphant German imperialism and the triumphant social patriotism of the International, regarded it as a piece of romanticism when Lenin issued the slogan of civil war in the first manifesto of the Bolshevik Central Committee, only two months after the outbreak of the great war. At that time they did not even venture to issue the slogan of a split in German Social Democracy.

Even in this black night of reaction Lenin prepared for the October rising of the proletariat. And when during the first weeks of the February revolution, he returned to Russia and unfolded the ideal of the Soviet power to his amazed Party comrades, he taught the Party at the same time to exercise the greatest patience in enlightening the masses still under the influence of social patriotic stupefaction, and to move forward among the masses step for step, in proportion to the growth of the revolutionary crisis. Lenin, who came to Russia with the idea of the Soviet republic, issued the slogan of a constitutional assembly as a stage on the road to the Soviet republic. At that time the slogan of the Soviet republic was his guiding star; but he realized that the masses would only follow this star after first being disappointed in the idea of democracy, in the idea of the constitutional assembly. He did not demand from the masses that they omit the transitional stage of the constitutional assembly, he was willing to overcome this stage together with them. He did not liquidate this slogan until after the seizure of power, when the constitutional assembly proved demonstratively that it formed an obstacle in the way of the peace which was the main object of the struggle.

The whole of Marxism teaches the proletariat how it has to conduct the struggle for power. But that this teaching is contained in Marxism was deeply hidden from the proletariat at that time, not only as a result of the opportunism of Social Democracy, which substituted bourgeois democracy for the dictatorship of the proletariat, but also as a result of the fact that the European labor movement, after the year 1871, had developed along the lines and within the confines of bourgeois democracy. Lenin rediscovered Marx's teachings on the dictatorship of the proletariat, not only because he was a revolutionary scholar of Marx but because the Russian proletariat had set its foot on the path towards the struggle for power.

Lenin, as the leader of the October insurrection and the leader of the Soviet power, is the highest embodiment of all that he taught during the period of preparation. "The revolutionary politician has to reckon with millions of human beings"—said Lenin. And as the leader of Soviet Russia he showed to the world proletariat with unexampled and graphic clarity and on a millionfold scale, everything which the small circle of Russian Bolsheviks had learned in the course of the preceding decades. By means of the symbol of sickle and hammer he reminded the whole European proletariat: "Seek your allies in the village, for this alliance will give you the bread you need for the revolution"; by means of the red star of the red army he showed the proletariat that the force of the enemy is to be broken by the force of the proletariat, of a proletariat followed by those classes of society whose interests demand a struggle against the reaction of the landowners and the capitalists. When he stood at the head of the mighty state apparatus, he pointed out and demonstrated unceasingly to the proletariat of all countries that power can only be maintained with

the support of the united vanguard of the proletariat, the Communist Party. Thus Lenin tested his theories in the fire of actual deeds, and it is thanks to this test that he became the teacher of the international proletariat, the founder of the Communist International.

(To be continued)

The Farmer's Forum

FARMER AND WAGE WORKER

Editor's Note: The above is an old *Time* Clarion headline which is not out of place, in view of the fact that the wheat pool propaganda on the part of the United Farmers of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba is causing considerable discussion, particularly in those areas. The Clarion circulates throughout those areas, and more discussion of farmers' problems is all to the good. Hence we hope we shall be able to maintain the headline. Comrade Paton appears to think the wheat pool has set itself the task of fixing the price of wheat, a point upon which there is room for discussion. Likewise there is room for argument as to what position we should take, as socialists, to the wheat pool propaganda.

WE are informed that the angel of freedom has now descended upon the earth equipped with the keys that will release those that have been long held in bondage. The bugle sounds the death knell of a section of the middle class, reducing a force that will swell the ranks of the proletarian army, but in no way does it sound freedom to farmers from capitalism. It is strange why capitalists and their gas blowers (the press) are all singing "Lead kindly light, lead Thou them on." The Guardian Angel has alleviated the anxiety of creditors by leaving an opening in the pool bag for those gentry to collect the swag with as little inconvenience as possible. The howl of the affected gang may be heard reverberating throughout the country, but everything in the garden looks lovely so far for the big interests. The Wheat Pool tickles the fancy of the uninformed, carrying them away in paroxysms with the idea of fixing a price on wheat in exchange for other commodities and thus solving the problem for the present distressful circumstances prevailing among farmers.

Now, Mr. Farmer, how do you know that the price of wheat is too low or too high? How do you know that the price of any commodity is high or low? Surely there must be some basis to work on in order to decide whether price is in excess or not. The value of a commodity is determined by the labor time socially necessary required for its reproduction; price will be regulated by supply and demand. This may be above or below value, but in any case price, taken over a given period, will be around the value of the thing priced. In order for you, Mr. Farmer, or your Pool Executive to fix a price on wheat to pay the wheat producers, a knowledge of the total labor time spent by those engaged in the production of the national wheat crop will be necessary. In the production of wheat farmers are engaged almost the year round. Seeding in spring, summer fallowing during summer, harvesting in fall and hauling to the elevator in winter. Supposing now that a record is taken each year in the different provinces by farmers using necessary methods in the production of wheat. The total cost must be summed up and an average struck per acre, divided by the average amount of bushels, giving an average cost per bushel in order to arrive at a fair knowledge as to whether wheat is too high or too low. No matter what the price of wheat will bring in the world's market it will never equalize the remuneration to all wheat growers as it cost all the way from \$8 up to \$30 per acre to produce wheat, according to information to hand from men heading the grain business. You cannot escape the fact that private ownership of the means of transportation and storage eats up the bulk of your value created on the farm. I know you hold a grudge against the

wage-worker and blame him for the high cost of transportation and the excessive price of everything you buy. The factory owners, transportation companies, and machine companies will pay no more for laborpower than its value. Let us see how we arrive at the value of labor-power.

Supposing a manufacturer starts in the hat business. He erects a building, installs machinery and buys raw material. Labor-power, to set the machinery in motion is necessary, so the hat factory owner hires ten men to work ten hours per day to make hats. The wages paid to those ten men will just cover their food, clothing, and shelter. The Canadian press tell us that 2,000,000 farmers in Canada produce sufficient in one year to feed 50,000,000 persons. Now that is very cheap and won't take very much time on the average to produce enough to feed one man and his wife and family. Assuming that \$2 per man each day is necessary to buy the essentials to reproduce the workers' energy, the manufacturer will pay \$20 per day in wages to the ten men hired.

Society has spent two hours in the production and distribution of sufficient to reproduce the workers' energy, so in two hours the ten men have made twenty hats to the value of \$20, covering all that is necessary to maintain ten men for one day. But another hour the ten men work and produce other ten hats, value \$10, to pay the factory owner for the wear and tear of his machine, the raw material, oil and fuel used up in the productive process. Expenditure \$30. Value created in three hours 30 hats, absolute value, \$30. Now Mr. Farmer, this is the process of capitalist production; and the worker gets no more than the value of what it will take to keep him from day to day.

By virtue of the ownership of the machine the owner demands a ten hour day although the ten men have created in three hours sufficient to cover their wages and pay for the use of the machine and the other necessities. The machine hums for other seven hours with the labor of the hired ten men producing at the same rate 10 hats per hour. This is termed by Karl Marx Surplus Value, something the workers produce and for which they receive nothing in return.

Now, supposing, Mr. Farmer, that the workers owned the machine and decided to pool their hats, clothing, boots, lumber, farm machinery, and everything that society required to satisfy its wants. If such was to happen, would it not be imperative to have a central industrial executive to arrange for the exchange of products? With the private owners eliminated, you, Mr. Farmer, would share in the above surplus and the wage workers in return would share in the agricultural surplus in the exchange of the different products.

When 2,000,000 farmers in Canada produce enough to feed 50,000,000 persons, and wage workers produce 50 or 60 per cent. surplus, why are you farmers in misery and want and wage workers and their families in the same position?

GEO. PATON.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

PROPAGANDA
MEETINGS

EVERY SUNDAY

THEATRE ROYAL

SUNDAY APRIL 13.

Speaker: J. HARRINGTON.

Subject: Britain's Labor Victory and its
Meaning.

SUNDAY APRIL 20.

Speaker: SAM GUTHRIE, M.L.A.

(Labor, Newcastle)

Subject: Progress and Politics.

All meetings at 8 p.m.

Questions. Discussion.